THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. With a view to ensure efficiency and transparency in the functioning of RNI, and to streamline the process of title verification, registration of newspapers and issue of Eligibility Certificates for import of Newsprint, a new Plan scheme "Modernisation of RNT" has been formulated in Tenth Plan with an approved outlay of Rs. 272.00 lakhs. The scheme is awaiting in-principle approval of the Planning Commission.

Recommendations of NCRWC on privileges and rights of SCs/STs

4593. SHRI KB. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Review of the Working of Indian Constitution has formally submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the report;

(c) whether the Commission has made any significant recommendations in relation to securing the privileges and rights of SCs/STs in the wake of many judicial pronouncements tantamount to negation of such rights and privileges in terms of educational and employment reservations to SC/ST communities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) has submitted its report to the Government on 31st March, 2002.

(b) The full text of the report of the Commission has been put on the Internet and the report has also been forwarded to all Ministries/Departments for examining and processing the same. Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations.

(c) and (d) As regards judicial pronouncements to secure the rights and privileges of SCs and STs, the Commission has made the following recommendation:

"The three Constitution amendments enacted in the last two years to undo the harm done in 1997 to the long pre-existing rights of SCs and STs in reservations should be put into effect forthwith. The Central and State Governments should amend the executive orders issued in 1997 regarding the

roster and restore the pre-1996 roster. This should also be brought under the purview of the statute mentioned above."

Complaints against the functioning of Delimitation Commission

4594. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from different quarters against the functioning of Delimitation Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to convene a meeting of all the parties; and

(c) if so, by when this meeting is likely to be held and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Member of Parliament had also raised this issue in the Lok Sabha after which an all-party meeting was convened on 13-3-2003 wherein representatives of various political parties conveyed their dissatisfaction with the procedure adopted by the Delimitation Commission for association of the Associate Members. The Government accordingly took up the matter with the Delimitation Commission, which has since changed the procedure regarding consultation with the Associate Members.

(c) As mentioned above, the Government has already held the meeting with the political parties and necessary action has been taken in the matter in pursuance thereof.

Freight rate for ships bound for America

4595. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight rate for ships bound for America has been raised by 40 per cent from May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have analyzed its impact on imports and exports of country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to remove adverse impact on exports ?